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ASIA

The Provinces of China. Together with a History of the First Year of H. I. M. Hsuan Tung, and An Account of the Government of China. Reprinted from "The National Review" (China) as "The National Review Annual." 1910. With a Preface by Colonel C. D. Bruce. 179 pp., illustrations and indices. The National Review Office, Shanghai, 1910. 9 x 7½.

This is really a primer of Chinese national life, far in value above the unpretentious gazetteer which at first inspection it seems to be. It is very hard to say in a general definition what China really is, and without that definite knowledge of the present it is still more difficult to forecast what China is to become. But if a comprehension of the Middle Kingdom as a whole evades inquiry the detailed study of its component provinces must bring us closer to such knowledge. On that principle this work has been compiled. It does not profess to be original. Its authors have taken the best from the standard authors, they have drawn upon all records of information with due assignment of credit. Province by province they have sketched the natural and economic geography of the empire in a way which will serve to present valuable information at the point where it is directly valuable and at the same time to guide the inquirer to sources of further information. It pretends to be no more than a handbook, but the student of Chinese affairs will find it a valuable book to have at hand.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Islam in China. A Neglected Problem. By Marshall Broomhall, B. A. xx and 332 pp., maps and illustrations, appendices and index. China Inland Mission, London, 1910. 7s. 6d. 10 x 6.

China's people are so numerous small wonder we had not noticed those five or ten millions of Mohammedans among them. Yet there is a mosque in every sizable city, thirty perhaps in Peking, schools for the teaching of Arabic, mullahs who speak Arabic, Chinamen who have pilgrimaged to Mecca, and Chinamen who pray toward Mecca with sacred, if uncomprehended, Arabic words. No province is without its Moslem contingent, though in Fukien, opposite Formosa, they number but a thousand. Fairly half the total of the Empire live in the western provinces, Kansu, which marches with Mongolia and Tibet and Yunnan on the Burman border.

The western Moslem is superior physically to the other Chinamen, straighter of eye, of strong nose and beard and better color. He is a cattle man where the Chinese are agricultural. He is skilful and courageous. Doubtless from these western borders the Mohammedans first entered the country. Two immigrations are probable: in the eighth century when Persia first succumbed to Arabian expansion and again by refugees from the devastations of Jenghis Khan. But Islam in China has lost memory of both occasions and sought to ally itself with the Prophet himself by a legend widely current that sends Mohammed's maternal uncle on a mission to Canton in 581 to 601 A. D. and has him build there the Mosque of the Holy Remembrance and the Smooth Pagoda. As Mohammed was born in 570 A. D. so early a Mohammedan mission starts investigation. Astronomical considerations fairly assure us of the invention of the legend in the fourteenth century, and even of the falsifying of the date of a monument at Sianfu, supposed to be of 742.

A hundred and fifty years ago the Moslems were equal before the law to other religionists in China, treated indeed with admirable liberality, but a series

of persecutions, massacres and uprisings in the west have changed that. For the twenty years preceding 1873 Yunnan and still more Yakoob Khan's country adjoining Kansu were fairly independent Mohammedan kingdoms, recognized indeed by European powers as independent. But the risings were put down, with enormous treachery and bloodshed—it is said 10,000,000 were slaughtered—and to-day the Mohammedan is hedged about with restrictions much like those the Jew suffers in Russia. His mood, the author feels, gives unequalled opportunity for Christian propaganda. His Mohammedanism is not bigoted.

The above has been fairly dug out of the author's pages, which read heavily. The pictures of mosques and race types are very fine. MARK JEFFERSON.

Lord Curzon's Administration of India. What he promised; What he Performed. By Syed Sirdar Ali Khan. 119 pp. Times Press, Bombay, 1905. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$.

In the six years which have elapsed since the publication of this laudation of a recalled Viceroy of the Indian Empire there has been unrest in India amounting at times to sedition and murder. Viewed against this background of events it would verge upon the polemical if the reviewer were to seek to estimate the value of this estimate of a ruler by one of the ruled. The plan which the author has set before him is to deal topically with the twelve subjects which Lord Curzon announced in his budget speech as about to claim his attention. Their scope may be estimated from the fact that the first is the greater strategy of the northern frontier against Russia, and the last is the reform of the village schoolmaster and the village policeman. Speaking for his own opinion, but probably representative of much of the sentiment of Mohammedan India, the author finds that each of the twelve topics has been carried forward to a most successful end. Time alone can determine these things; in the meanwhile geographers will be pleased to see that some measure of appreciation has come to an administrator who at one time gave promise of adding new chapters to our knowledge of the wild parts of inner Asia. WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Racial Anatomy of the Philippine Islanders. Introducing New Methods of Anthropology. By Robert Bennett Bean, B.S., M.D. 236 pp., illustrations and appendix. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1910. $8 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$.

The data from the Philippines here assembled, and particularly the method of treatment to which they have been subjected, will prove of extreme interest to anthropologists. There is rich promise that the method which Dr. Bean has worked out as lucidly as laboriously may prove to be, as with the pride natural to the discoverer he describes it, a new departure in that important science. Hitherto the results of anthropometry in establishing race type have been based upon the skull and the skeleton, the anatomy of the hard and inner parts. When dealing with the living specimen it is impracticable to take accurate measurements of his inner anatomy, it is equally inconvenient to postpone the determination until the skeleton becomes available. Dr. Bean has invented in this work a racial anatomy of the living and has founded it upon the measurement of the soft and exterior parts. The special student of such themes will find pleasure in following out the author's careful establishment of comparative values of his classification by the morphology of the ear helix and the omphalic index with the older types established upon the cephalic index and skeletal structure in